

Re: Cloning a disk using dd

Source: <http://linux.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.os.linux.misc/2007-11/msg00047.html>

- *From:* Bill Waddington <william.waddington@xxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 01 Nov 2007 11:56:16 -0700
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On 1 Nov 2007 18:42:14 GMT, General Schvantzoph <schvantzoph@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

On Thu, 01 Nov 2007 11:09:00 -0700, Bill Waddington wrote:

On 1 Nov 2007 17:30:12 GMT, General Schvantzoph
<schvantzoph@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

On Thu, 01 Nov 2007 08:27:28 -0600, Douglas Mayne
wrote:

On Wed, 31 Oct 2007 19:44:41 -0500,
General Schvantzopf wrote:

I'm trying to clone a Win2K
disk using Fedora Live on a
USB FLASH
disk. I did a

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dd if=/dev/sda of=/dev/sdb
```

[snippage]

I should explain why I'm going through this pain. My
girlfriend uses XP
and no amount of pleading is going to get her to change. I'm
planning on
replacing an old 80G drive in her system with a new 500G, I
also want to
come up with a reasonably procedure for backing up her
environment. What
would be a pimple removal in Linux is a heart lung

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transplant in Windows. In Linux you would just do a clean install of the OS, which is a 20 minute operation, and copy the other partitions. If you have a distro sensitivity you can run a VM on top of the host OS and you are done, I do that all the time running CentOS VMs on top of Fedora. A backup in Linux is just an rsync of your important data and binary applications to another system. In Windows none of this is possible because the applications and the OS are entangled plus they all have licensing issues. Instead of backing up a few gigabytes you need to backup everything because you can't disentangle the OS + Apps + Data. I tried doing a VMware snapshot of here system so that she could run it as a VM (which can be easily copied to another disk or system) but that ran into the Windows Activation problem. When I booted the VM it demanded to be activated which I couldn't do without risking deactivating the host OS on her system. I can't do a clean install of the OS either because she claims that it took her months to get the system into the state that she likes and because she would have to reactivate both XP and some of her apps like Photoshop (she had to call Adobe when she moved over to this box in the spring).

The bottom line is that I need a procedure for moving and backing up an XP environment. I'm trying to do this with tools I understand, which means Linux tools, but I've had to learn more about Windows than I ever wanted to know. Does anyone have any suggestions for accomplishing this task?

p.s. The reason that I've been using 2K and not XP for my experiments is that 2K doesn't use Activation, it uses the old serial number method.

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I'm doing this on my sandbox machine so I can start from scratch if someone has a straight forward procedure for doing this.

General, on further thought, you are making this too hard :) Just dd the entire _XP_ drive, resize the cloned partition w/Gparted, (not QTParted) pull the old, install the new and boot it up.

My guess is that XP will run, do its "configuring new devices" thing, ask for a reboot, and run just fine.

My win forensic friend tells me that XP checks several things to see if it has been copied to a new machine. Just a drive change shouldn't trigger an activation request. If it does, decline and come back to fight another day.

Bill

I'm not sure how Windows decided that the original drive was E: and the cloned drive was C:. Before I did my second attempt at dd I formatted the new drive on the old OS, it was then that the C letter was assigned. Is it possible that they are just using a label in the partition table? If not where is Windows equivalent of /etc/fstab?

Just guessing that when you installed 2k you already had 98 or something win-ish in C, and maybe another fat or ntfs partition somewhere, or a CD drive, so that 2k took the next available drive letter. Kind of like that mess I referred you to up-thread.

As to the equivalent to /etc/fstab – no idea. One does see things like %system root% in the env variables and that refers to the installed drive letter. If you are looking to _change_ the drive letter of the clone, you are probably doomed. Like most win crap it is likely buried in dozens of registry entries...

Back to my rant, though. XP doesn't seem to be anywhere near as sensitive as 2k to this kind of stuff. IMHO You are just burning cycles needlessly fighting w/2k. Before we _all_ wear out on this, how about just trying on XP? [:)]

Bill

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William D Waddington
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"Even bugs...are unexpected signposts on
the long road of creativity..." – Ken Burch

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